drag and drop operation is in progress, the target object receives a message that the source-visual element **20** is positioned over the target-visual element **22** (step **166**). Subsequently, the target object receives the message that the secondary button **14** (FIG. **1**) of the mouse **10** has been released to initiate a drop (step **168** in FIG. **15**). This message of the mouse message that is not placed into the message queue, as described above, but rather is sent directly to the target object to ensure that the target object is properly informed of the drop. The target object then determines what operations are available to the user (step **170**). The determination of the available operation is performed by negotiation between the source object and the target object. The source object may have restrictions on the operations that can be performed on it. Likewise, the target object may have similar restrictions. Both the source object and the target object provide sets of possible operations that may be performed. The target object then determines the intersection of these two sets as the available set of operations (see step **170**).

Once the available operations have been determined, a context menu **163** (FIG. **14**) is displayed on the video display **44** with a list of the available operations (step **172**). The user makes a selection from the context menu **163** and the selection is relayed to the target object (step **174**). The code for the target object **148** then performs a selected option that communicates with which operation was selected by the user to the source object (step **176**).

While the present invention has been described with reference to a preferred embodiment thereof, those skilled in the art will, nevertheless, appreciate that various changes in form and detail may be made without departing from the present invention, as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a computer system employing a graphical user interface and including a display and a user interface selection device, a method for moving text displayed in window, comprising the steps of:

displaying text in a window;

displaying a cursor in the window, the cursor being responsive to signals from the user interface selection device;

receiving a first selection signal indicating that a portion of the displayed text has been selected;

receiving a first position signal indicating that the cursor is positioned at a first position coinciding with the selected text;

in response to the first position signal, altering the appearance of the cursor to indicate that the selected text may be moved;

receiving a second selection signal, the second selection signal being received while the cursor is in the first position;

in response to the second selection signal, altering the appearance of the cursor to indicate the selected text is in the process of being moved;

receiving a second position signal indicating that the cursor is positioned at a second position, the second positioned being different from the first position, the cursor being moved while the second selection signal is maintained;

receiving a third selection signal; and

in response to the third selection signal, moving the selected text to the second position.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein the first selection signal comprises dragging the cursor across a portion of the displayed text.

3. The method of claim **1**, wherein the second selection signal comprises a mouse button down signal and the third selection signal comprises a mouse button up signal.

4. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

displaying text in a window;

displaying a cursor in the window, the cursor being responsive to signals from the user interface selection device;

receiving a first selection signal indicating that a portion of the displayed text has been selected;

receiving a first position signal indicating that the cursor is positioned at a first position coinciding with the selected text;

in response to the first position signal, altering the appearance of the cursor to indicate that the selected text may be moved;

receiving a second selection signal, the second selection signal being received while the cursor is in the first position;

in response to the second selection signal, altering the appearance of the cursor to indicate the selected text is in the process of being moved;

receiving a second position signal indicating that the cursor is positioned at a second position, the second positioned being different from the first position, the cursor being moved while the second selection signal is maintained;

receiving a third selection signal; and

in response to the third selection signal, moving the selected text to the second position.

5. The computer-readable medium of claim **4**, wherein the first selection signal comprises dragging the cursor across a portion of the displayed text.

6. The computer-readable medium of claim **4**, wherein the second selection signal comprises a mouse button down signal and the third selection signal comprises a mouse button up signal.

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